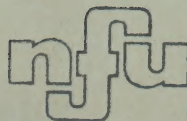


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Submission to the Minister of Agriculture
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national farmers union



SUBMISSION

to the

Minister of Agriculture

Province of Alberta

on

Crop Losses, Peace River Area

Presented at

GRANDE PRAIRIE, Alberta

17 October 1972

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INTRODUCTION

1. The National Farmers Union appreciates the opportunity of appearing before you on behalf of the farmers in the Peace River Area.

2. The condition of the present crop in this area constitutes a disaster of great magnitude. In the unlikely event that weather will permit, the completion of all, or even a large portion of the remaining crop, losses in bushels, as well as the extra costs of harvesting will be large.

In some areas, Bonanza for example, harvesting is less than ten-percent completed. A hail storm on August 8th. struck Bear Canyon and Cherry Point devastating many acres of crop.

Stockmen, as well as grain farmers must share concern as supplies of good quality hay are low and a possible shortage of feed cannot be dismissed.

3. Any deliberations on the amount and nature of financial help must take into account, the fact that many farmers are already in an extremely poor financial position. Adverse weather conditions and low grain prices over the last three or 4 years have combined to drain farm resources. Most farmers with high capital payments are in arrears and many are faced with foreclosure on machinery, land or both.

4. The Alberta All Risk Crop Insurance which might have covered this contingency, has on the whole, been unacceptable to farmers. They have felt that the levels of premiums for the amount of protection offered were too high.

In this regard, officers of Region 7 of the National Farmers Union have submitted their proposals to the Special Crop Insurance and Weather Modification Committee. On the whole, we support Region 7's submission, but may later ask the opportunity to make further submission, in light of our experience in British Columbia.

SUMMARY

The National Farmers Union feels that because the farmers find themselves in this plight as a result of conditions beyond their control, substantial help should be provided. We believe that these disasters should not be allowed to force any farmer into bankruptcy or place him in a financial position from which he has difficulty in recovering. Nor should any farmer be required to

sell his livestock because of a shortage of feed or because of capital commitments.

We note that the Quebec Government, in conjunction with the Federal Government has provided their farmers in the recent flood disaster, compensation equalling sixty-percent of their expected income.

We respectfully suggest that:

1. Your Government in conjunction with the Federal Government provide assistance to equal as nearly as possible the expected income from the present crop and in any case, not less than an amount similar to that provided by the Province of Quebec.
2. That an all out effort be launched to develop a crop insurance program which meets the needs of the farmers in this area, and which would cover contingencies such as we are presently experiencing.

All of which is respectfully submitted

Region 8
National Farmers Union

